(e) whether a copy of the report be placed on the Table of this House?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) Yes. Government propose to give an opportunity to the Members to express their views during this session.

(b) The Member is referred to the report, a copy of which has already been supplied to him.

(c) Vide answer to (b).

(d) Vide answer to (a). Orders will be deferred till hen.

(e) Yes.

54. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) who were the members of the Special Finance Committee and what were their qualifications; of these who were the members in the service of the Government and what were the offices which they were occupying;

(b) for what purpose is Mr. Sesha Ayyar placed on special duty in connection with the report of the Special Finance Committee; what are his qualifications;

(c) has Mr. Sesha Ayyar submitted his report over the report of the Committee; if so, what is the report?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The Member is referred to the D. P. No. C. 89/1101, dated 7th April 1926, published in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 10th April 1926.

(b) The Member is referred to the D. P. No. C. 89/1101, dated 19th March 1928, published in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 5th May 1928.

(c) Vide answer to (b) above. No report is due from him.

55 Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the date on which the report of the Special Finance Committee was received by them;

(2) what steps have been taken to give effect to the recommendations contained therein;

(3) whether the view of the Heads of Departments or other officers of Government have been ascertained in regard to the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee; if so, what those views are and by whom they were made;

(4) whether the Diwan or any of the Heads of Departments have recommended the acceptance of any of the proposals of the Special Finance Committee; if so, what were the proposals which were so recommended?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.— (1) Vide answer to question 52 (1) above.

(2) The report is under consideration.

(3) Yes. These are for the information of the Government only and not for publication.

(4) As for Diwan, the report is under consideration only. As for the Heads of Departments, vide the latter part of the answer to (3) above.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—The answer to sub-division (2) is 'the report is under consideration.' Is it under the consideration of the Council or of anybody else?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Not of the Council? It is said in the circular accompanying the report of the Special Finance Committee that the views of the Council would be taken. Is that consideration going on now?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—With reference to sub-division (3), is there any objection for this House to know about it, if the Government thinks there is no objection? Has the Government got any objection to inform the Council as to what are the respective recommendations of the Heads of Departments?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was primarily intended for the information of the Government only.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—You want the opinion of the House. It may not be for publication. As the report was sent to us, is there any objection to inform us of those recommendations?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no objection.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Why not give us the information now?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Now it is not possible.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Since there is no objection, it may be given to us beforehand, before the views of the Council on the report are taken. A Special Session is going to be held, and we must be supplied with that information before that meeting.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes, you will be supplied with the information before that.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—That was what is meant by my question.

With regard to sub-division (4), the purpose of my question was to know whether any particular recommendation was sent over to the Palace for sanction. I think it is not a matter for consideration. Whether any recommendation was sent to the Palace for approval?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Approval of whom ?

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Of His Highness.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Approval of what recommendation ?

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Any particular recommendation of the Heads of Departments on the report of the Special Finance Committee taken from the Heads of Departments, or the Diwan or anybody else.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I want notice for that. I have not looked into the thing.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—I gave ample time for answering the question. The purpose of my question is,.....

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Defeated, perhaps. I am sorry.

56. Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the report of the Special Finance Committee is kept confidential ; if so, for what reasons ;

(2) in view of the fact that the recommendations of the Committee affect the people of the State generally, whether Government have any objection to give immediate publicity to the said report and to invite public criticism thereon ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(1) The report is no longer kept confidential. They have already been circulated among the Members of the Legislative Council.

(2) Government have no objection to give publicity to the said report ; but they do not consider it necessary to invite public criticism thereon as the report itself was prepared by the Committee after ascertaining the views of many representative non-officials and also as the Government have invited a discussion on the report on the floor of this House.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—May I know when the confidential nature of the report was removed ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—When it was placed in the hands of the Members, it was removed.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—It was kept confidential then.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was confidendial when the Government got it. Till the report was sent along with the circular to the Members, the report was kept confidential.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—When was the confidential nature of the same removed ? Is it before that or after that?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is intended for the Members only.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—So it was confidential then.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was confidential only so far as the Members were concerned.

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